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FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

13

Based on the series shown on **B B C** TV.

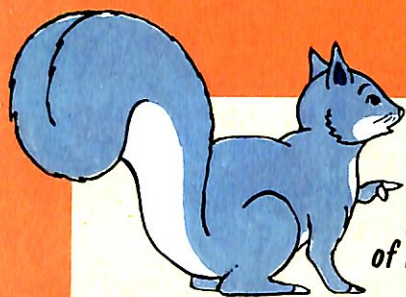


NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

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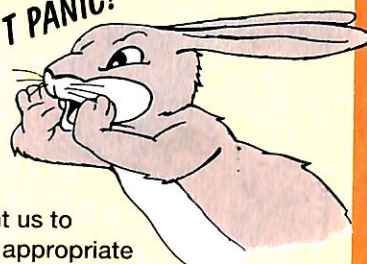
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Owl can't get forty winks
with all the creepy crawlies
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Cross the stepping stones
to the island and join Fox
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COLOUR IT IN

A fine pair

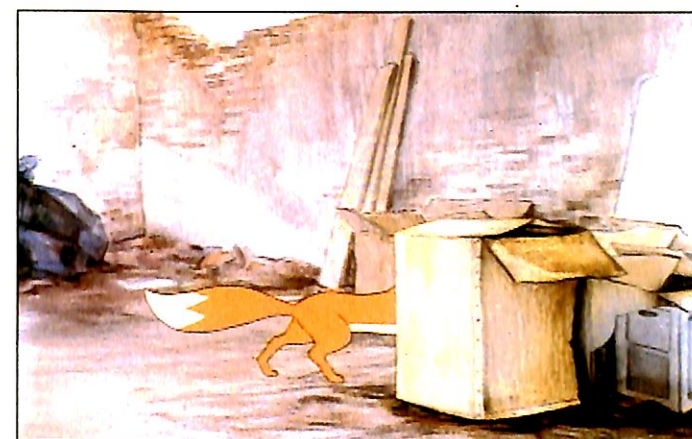
CREDITS

Photographs: Heather Angel FF1(bl, bc), FF2(c); Bruce Coleman Ltd FF1,
(David Hughes) FF2(tr), (Kim Taylor) AA4(t); FLPA (Roger Wilmhurst)
FF2(br); Michael & Patricia Fogden FF2(bl); Sally & Richard Greenhill
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Danneger) AA3, (Hellio & Van Ingen) AA2(tr, br), (EA Janes) AA2(bl),
(Michael Leach) AA1, 4(b); RSPB (RT Smith) AA2(tl).
Illustrations: Andy Cooke PIO1-4; Eagle Moss (Norman Arlott) AA3-4;
Mei Lim FC, CII1; Mick Loates SW1-3; Atholl MacDonald HTD1-2;
Josephine Martin/Garden Studio FF1-2(c); Clive Spong/Linden Arstists
AA1, FF1(t), 2(b); Stuart Trotter DN1-3.
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FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out;
SW = Secret World.

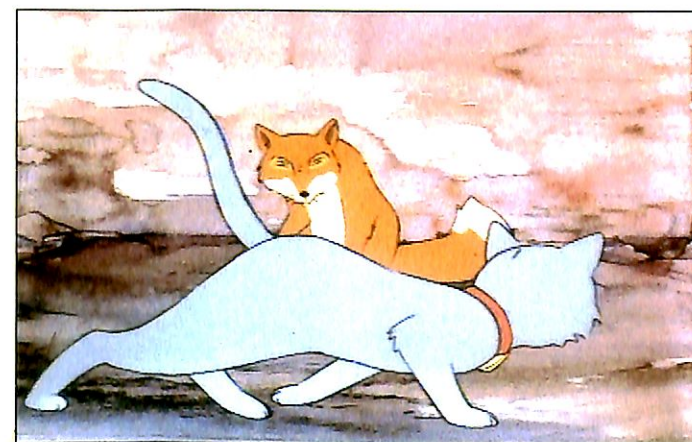


13: Fox finds a friend

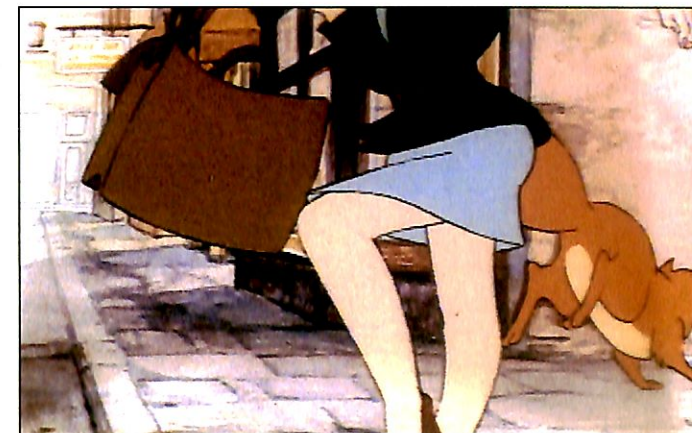
Fox had been drifting down river on a log. As he passed under a bridge the log bumped into a barge and he jumped aboard. When the boat went into a lock he saw his chance to get on to dry land.



He spotted an open door, rushed inside and hid behind some boxes.



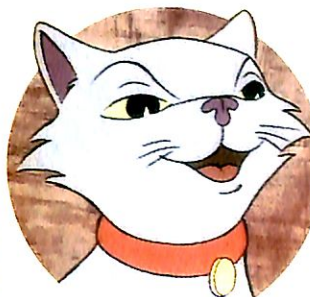
"You're a funny sort of cat," said the cat to Fox. "I'm looking for sanctuary from the humans," gasped Fox. "If I let you stay here you'll have to earn your keep and catch a few rats," the cat said.



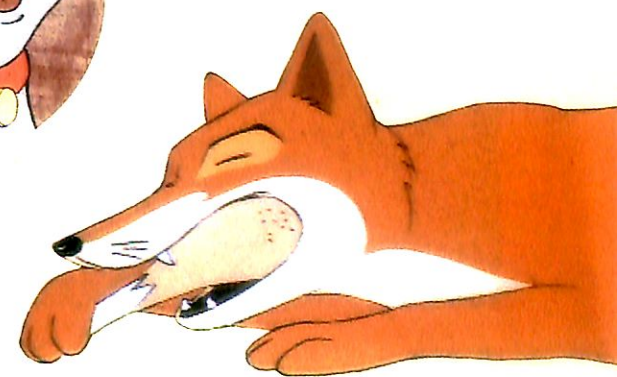
As the boat rose up in the water, Fox made a dash for it into a side street. He was in town! Cars screeched to a halt as Fox ran across the road. Where could he go? He bumped into a woman who dropped her briefcase.



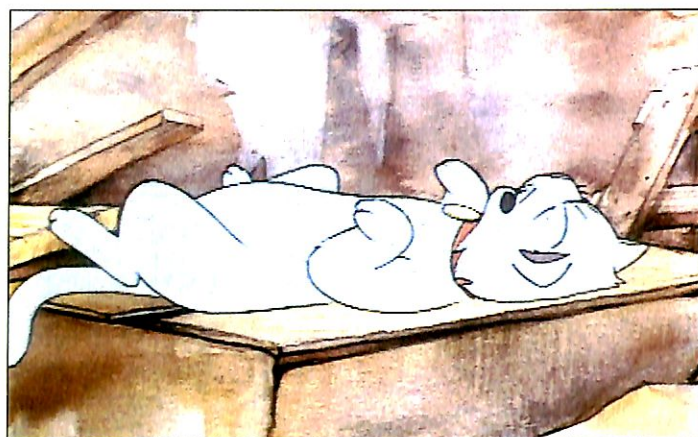
The woman followed him but all she saw was a grey cat coming out from behind the boxes. "I'm sure it wasn't a cat I saw," she said to herself, going out and shutting the door.



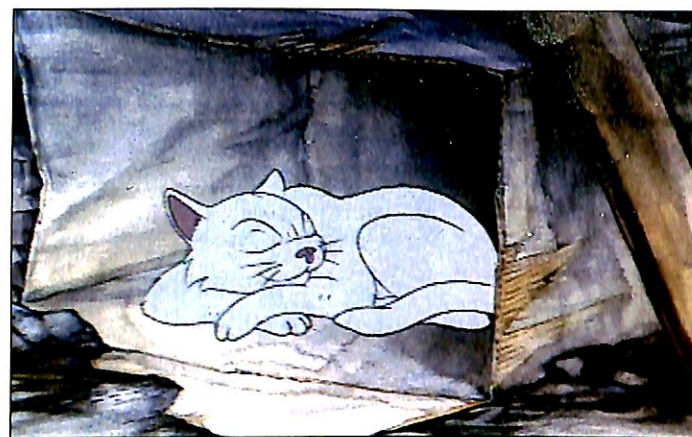
"I'm called Tom," the cat said. "Are you hungry?" Fox nodded.



"Help yourself to food from the rubbish sacks. I don't touch the stuff myself," said Tom. Fox tucked in to an old chicken bone.



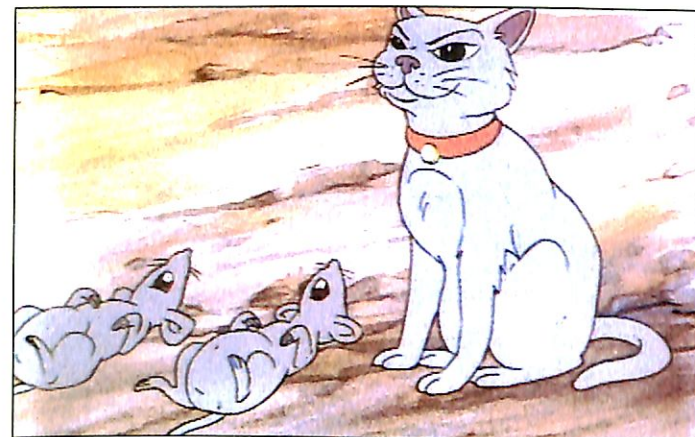
"I hope they won't think I've eaten the mouldy stuff they throw away. They might stop feeding me fresh food. If they did that I'd have to pretend to be sick." Tom rolled over, groaned and waved all four legs in the air.



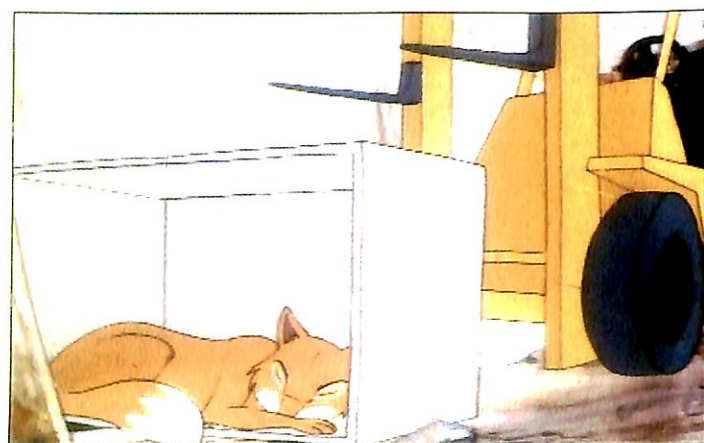
While the cat slept, Fox hunted.



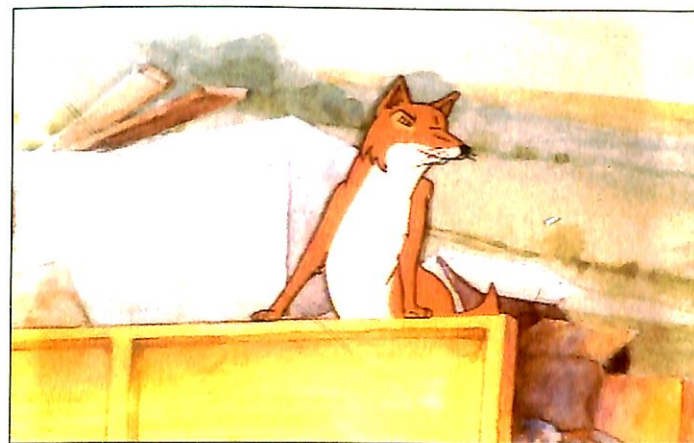
"Three ... six ... ten ..." he counted. "Stop! Stop!" called the cat, "Don't overdo it." Fox settled down in a warm box for a well-earned sleep.



Early next morning the supermarket yard was busy. The cat proudly displayed the night's catch.



Just then a forklift truck trundled over to the box Fox was sleeping in. The truck picked it up and dumped it in the back of a lorry.



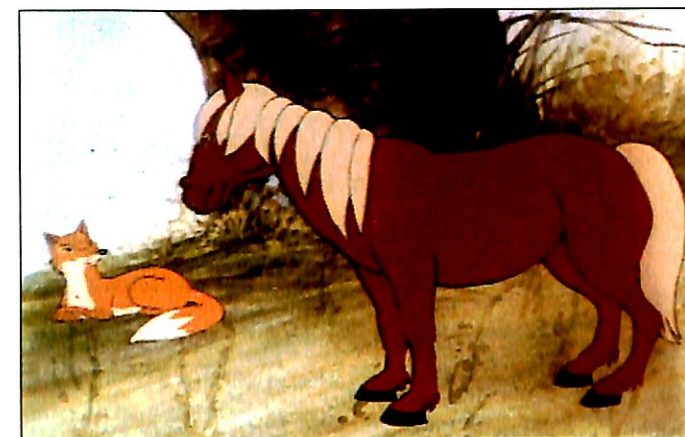
Fox woke up and found he was being taken out of town. He sniffed the air. Surely this was near where he had left his friends.



With a leap he bounded out of the truck. At a farm gate a voice said "Hello there, nice day." It was a friendly looking horse. "Mind if I rest in the shade of your field?" asked Fox. "Be my guest," replied Horse.



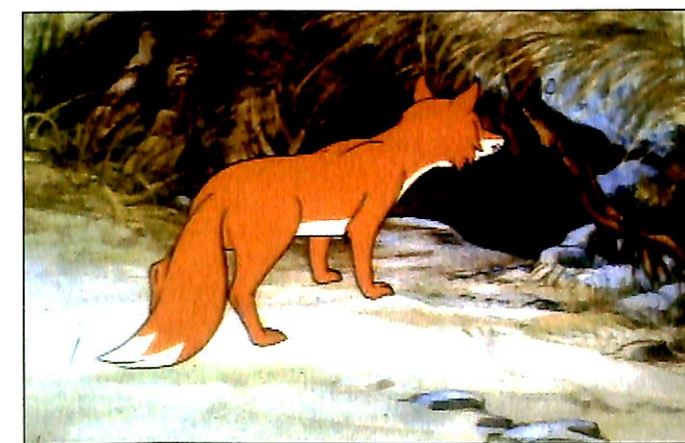
"Bit odd, meeting you," said Horse, "I've been hunting Foxes all my life and now we're having a chat." "Hunting!" said Fox, alarmed. "This is hunting country," said Horse. "I'm a bit past it myself but you want to watch out."



"I'm following the scent of a band of animals," said Fox. "Have you seen them?" "Not me," said Horse. "But a crow told me they had gone by." "I've rested long enough," said Fox getting up. "Find a safe place to hide," said Horse.



After a long walk, Fox began to get tired. A hole, hidden in tree roots, caught his eye. It was empty so Fox crawled in.



A Vixen caught sight of the end of Fox's tail as it went into her earth. She went over and looked in. Fox was startled. "Poor thing, you look hungry," she said. "I was about to do a spot of hunting. Care to join me?"



"Things are looking up," thought Fox, as he joined Vixen and they set off together.

Next week: The hunt!

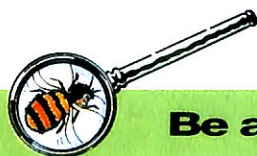
All About...

KESTRELS



“Kee kee! Kestrel here. Chief look-out for the Farthing Wood tribe and superb hoverer — ‘windhover’ is what we were called in the old days. We Kestrels are hunting birds. We live in open country and that’s why we like to hover — we get a good view of the land from above. We have long slender wings with large, fierce-looking eyes and really sharp claws called talons. Although we’re only 34cm long — that’s quite a bit smaller than a Magpie — we can catch and kill Lapwings and Turtle doves which are almost as big as we are.

We used to spend all our time in the open country, but nowadays some of us live, and even make our nests, in towns. One of our favourite places for hunting is along the edges of motorways where there are lots of small creatures in the long grass. The only part of the British Isles you probably won’t see us is on the Shetland Islands.”



Be a Nature Detective

HAWK SPOTTING

If you’re travelling along a motorway and you see a bird hovering above the grassy bank at the roadside it’s probably one of us Kestrels.

If you spot a hawk in a wood it’s more likely to be a Sparrowhawk. It’s hard for us to manage our long wings where trees grow close together.



There’s quite a difference between us females (above) and our males. We are reddish brown with dark streaks and bars, especially on our tail. The males (right) have a greyish-blue head and tail. We both have a black bar at the tip.

Kestrels live alone most of the time, but in the spring you might see us together as we do one of our courtship flying shows. We soar high above the ground with our wings stretched out and calling ‘kee-kee-kee’.



When the chicks hatch out, they are covered in fluffy, white down. The father brings the mother food and she then tears it up into small pieces and pops it into each chick’s mouth. If the father cannot find enough food for all the chicks we mothers give most to the strongest one. This may sound cruel but it does mean that at least one chick has a chance of surviving and growing up to have chicks of its own one day.



We don’t bother building nests — we either use another bird’s, a ledge, or a hollow tree. We can use a piece of machinery like this crane (above) or even a window-box on a high-rise building. We lay 4-6 reddish eggs.



Hunting

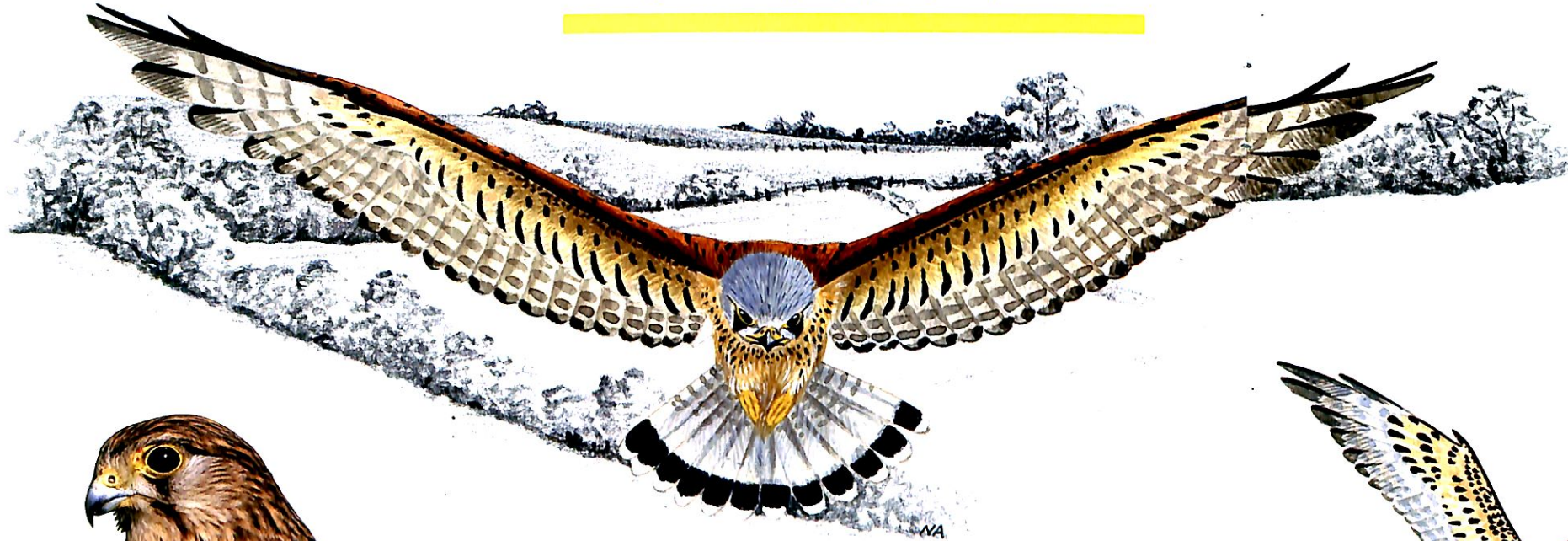
“What we eat depends on where we live. Out in the open country we mainly hunt for small creatures like mice and voles, small birds and insects.

In towns, where there are fewer mammals, we catch more birds, such as Sparrows and Starlings.”

IT'S Amazing!

If you were standing on a fence post at the edge of a football pitch, do you think you could spot a mouse running about on the other side of the centre line? Well, a Kestrel can pick out a possible meal from that distance. Bad luck, mouse!

This is a young male who has just caught himself a meal. You can't see it because he's hiding it from other birds by spreading out his wings and tail.



▲ GOING FOR THE KILL

We look for prey, either from a high perch, such as telephone wires, or a tall tree. Or we hover high above the ground, with our tail fanned out and our wings beating fast. We keep our head perfectly still so that we can search with our eyes for a possible meal. When we have spotted a creature we drop down, stopping to get ourselves in exactly the right position to snatch up the animal below.



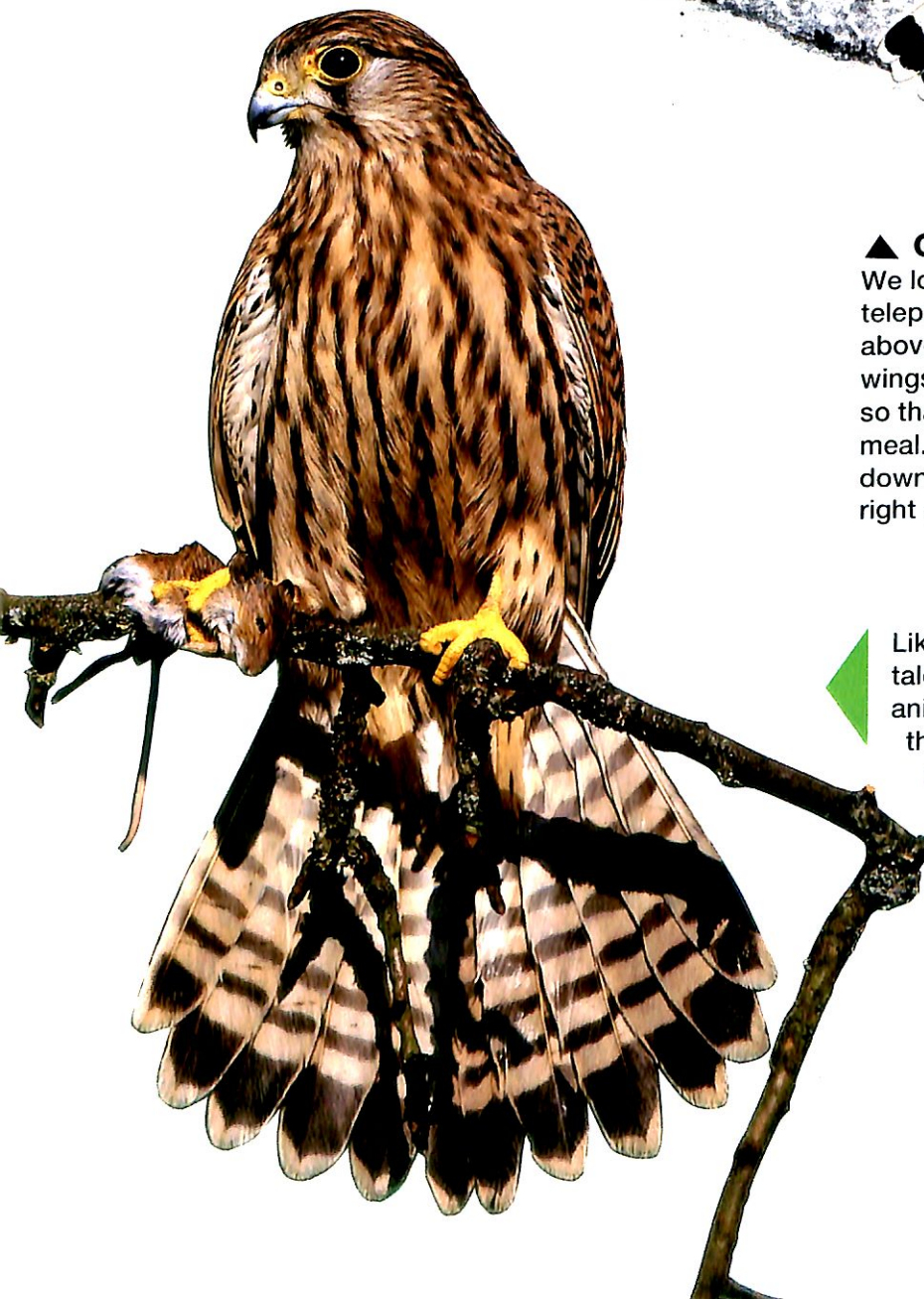
▲ We make a sudden swoop and grab the animal with our sharp talons.

Like other birds of prey, we use our curved talons to grab and lift our prey. The small animals are killed straightaway by the force of the grab or by the pointed tips of our talons which puncture their bodies. When we catch a larger animal, like a Rabbit, we kill it with a blow to the back of the neck.

Many birds have their eyes on the side of their head so that they see out of each eye separately. But our eyes are more forward-looking and we use them both to focus on the same place or thing, just like humans do. This means that we can judge distances very accurately, which is a great help when we are swooping down on a mouse or vole way below us.



▲ If we are out in the open or by a road we carry our catch away in our talons to a quiet perch, such as a tree stump, where we will not be disturbed. Then we can tuck into our meal, ripping it into pieces with our razor-sharp beak.





Shrew

Mrs Shrew and her family trot along at the back of the line on the journey from Farthing Wood. Like the Voles and Fieldmice, they feel very nervous in the company of their natural enemies – Owl, Adder and Kestrel. Their tiny legs tire easily but Fox and Badger's encouraging words keep them going.

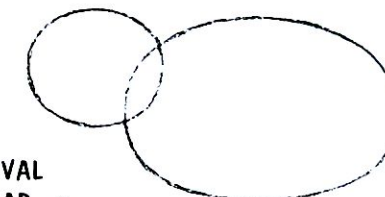


Drawing Shrew

BEFORE YOU START...
PRACTISE DRAWING
THESE SHAPES
LONG CURVED OVALS
AND LINES

1

DRAW AN
OVERLAPPING OVAL
FOR THE BODY

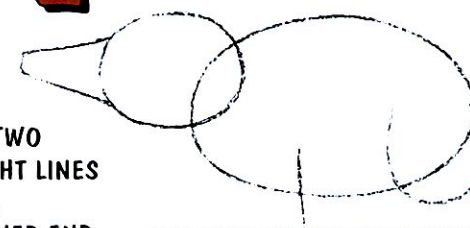


DRAW AN OVAL
FOR THE HEAD

DRAW A LINE
UNDERNEATH

2

DRAW TWO
STRAIGHT LINES
WITH A
FLATTENED END
FOR THE SNOUT



ADD A LINE
FOR THE TAIL

DRAW A CURVED
LINE FOR THE
HIND LEG

DRAW TWO LINES
DOWN TO MEET
THE LINE ACROSS
THE BOTTOM

! DRAW YOUR LINES
LIGHTLY SO YOU
CAN RUB OUT
OVERLAPPING ONES

3

DRAW A CURVED
LINE FOR THE EAR

DRAW A CURVED
LINE FROM THE
SNOUT TO THE
HIND LEG

ADD A
SECOND LINE
TO THE TAIL

DRAW TWO
LINES FOR THE
FRONT LEG

DRAW A BENT
LINE FOR ONE
BACK FOOT

ADD A LINE TO
FINISH OFF THE
OTHER FRONT LEG

DRAW ANOTHER
BENT LINE FOR
THE SECOND
BACK FOOT

4

DRAW THE
SECOND
EAR

ADD A CURVED
LINE INSIDE THE
FIRST EAR

SHAPE
THE HEEL

ADD A DOT FOR
THE EYE, AN
EYEBROW AND
A MOUTH

DRAW IN
THE PAWS

RUB OUT
THE LINE
ACROSS THE
BOTTOM

FINISH THE
FOOT

5

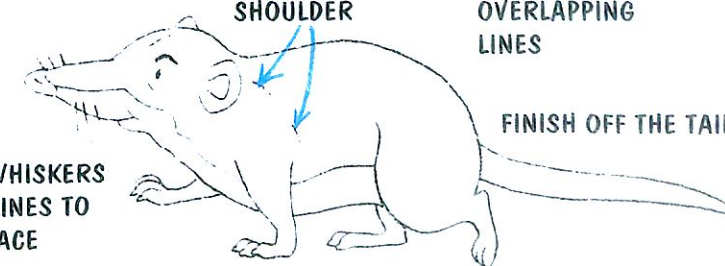
DRAW SHORT
LINES DOWN THE
SHOULDER

RUB OUT ANY
OVERLAPPING
LINES

FINISH OFF THE TAIL

ADD WHISKERS
AND LINES TO
THE FACE

ADD CLAWS TO THE PAWS





A LOWLAND RIVER IN SUMMER

“Welcome, dear readers, to my humble patch of river. But where are my manners! I must introduce myself, first of all. I’m Whistler, not *Mr* Whistler, not Heron, just Whistler, plain and simple.

Expert fisherman as I am, I know pretty well all there is to know about watery places. And, believe me, of one thing you can be completely sure – where there’s fresh water, there’s wildlife. Simple as that – because

every living thing needs water to live. Of course, the kind of wildlife you find depends on what kind of water it is. You wouldn’t see the same sort of creatures round a pond as along a river. And it even matters what part of the river you’re in. Most rivers start up in the hills, where they are fast moving streams. By the time you get down to where I live, the river’s well on its way to the sea. It has grown wide and calm and slow-moving.



In this picture, you can see some of the creatures I share my home with. And I’ll set you a challenge.”

Whistler’s Challenge: as you can see water always attracts the birds. Apart from me, how many other kinds of bird can you see?



20

Cameras
to be
won

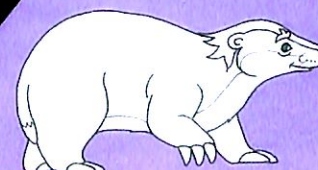


Competition

WIN
A
NIKON
EF100

Part

3





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Find the pairs.

There are 10 pairs in this puzzle – and one left over. What is it?



Write your answers below.

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

YOUR POSTAL DETAILS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

AGE.....

WHERE TO SEND THIS FORM

Farthing Wood Friends
(Camera Competition),
FREEPOST, PO BOX 1,
HASTINGS TN35 4BR



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Parts 1 and 2 of
the competition
appeared in issues
9 and 11 of

FARTHING WOOD
FRIENDS

Competition rules

The competition is open to anyone aged 12 or under. The closing date for entries is 1 August 1993. The winners will be the first 20 correct answers chosen at random from all the entries received before the closing date. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. A list of the winners can be obtained one month after the closing date by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the competition address. There is no money alternative to the prize offered. For readers in the UK and Rep. of Ireland only.



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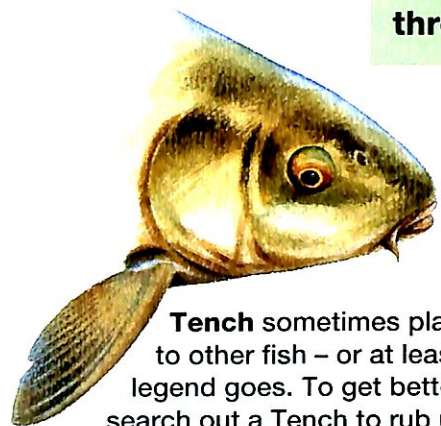
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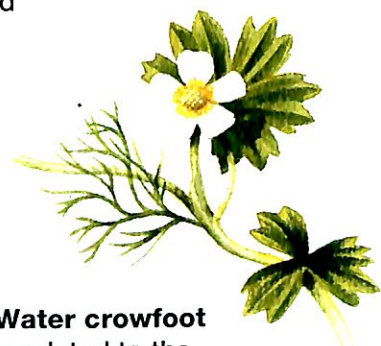
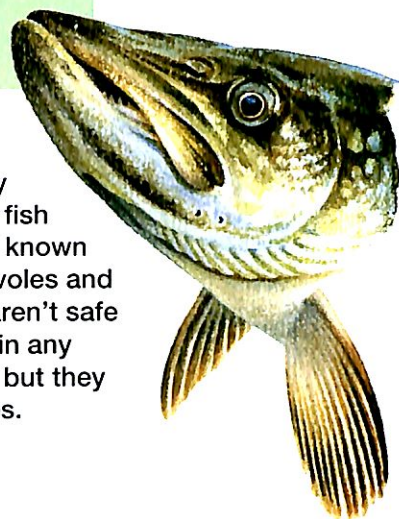


Spot the birds. There's a Kingfisher on a branch looking out for a fish, and Swallows skimming over the water catching flies. A Moorhen is paddling over the river – can you see her three chicks hiding in the bushes?



Tench sometimes play 'doctor' to other fish – or at least so the legend goes. To get better, sick fish search out a Tench to rub up against. For this reason, Pike are supposed never to eat Tench. In fact they sometimes can't resist them!

The Pike is a ferocious hunter, feeding on nearly every kind of freshwater fish in Britain. It's even been known to eat ducklings, Water voles and Brown rats! Fishermen aren't safe either. They may not be in any danger of getting eaten, but they can still suffer nasty bites.

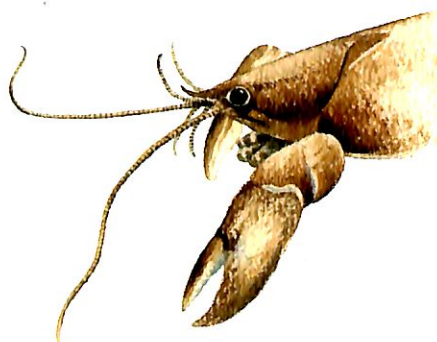


Water crowfoot is related to the familiar buttercup and grows best where the river is slow flowing or completely still. Cattle love eating it and it's very good for them.

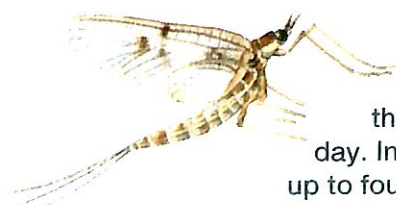


Water voles are Britain's biggest voles, with their 20cm long bodies and 12cm long tails. Tell-tale signs that they have been around are bitten-off plants along the riverbank.

Freshwater crayfish are about 10-15cm long. They have huge pincer claws that can catch and hold quite large animals like snails. In spite of this, they often eat plants and do most of their feeding at night when they're safe from their enemies.



The Otter is at home both on land and in the water. It's one of Britain's most playful animals, but is very rare. It has fun sliding down muddy river banks or twirling about in the water.



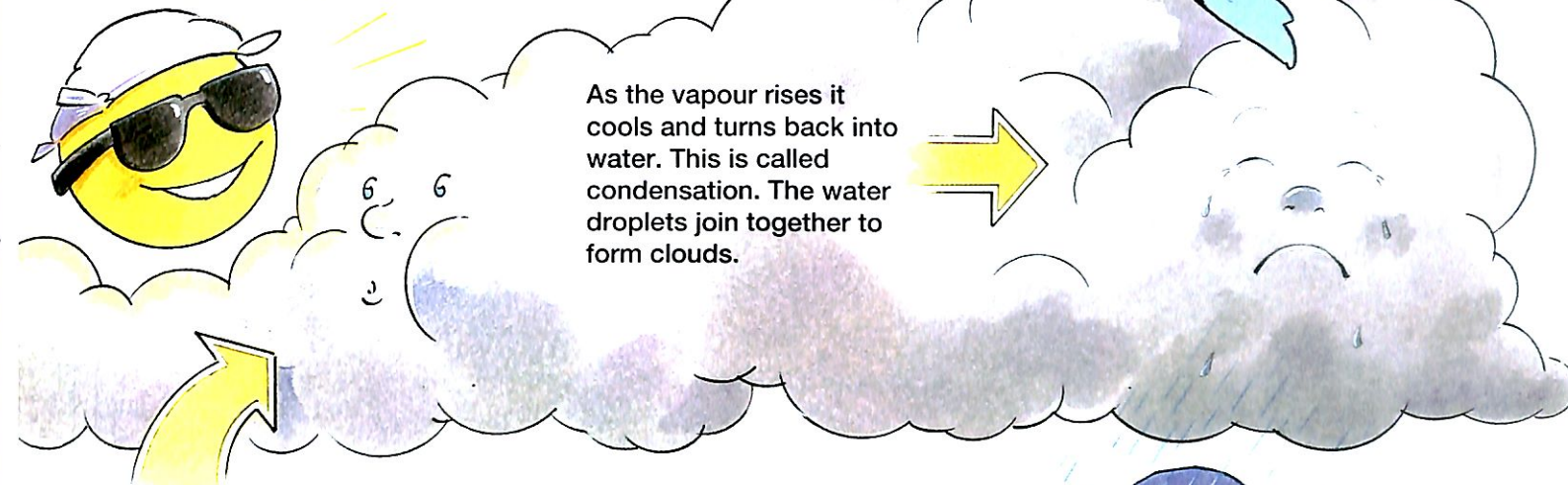
Mayflies are often thought to live for just a day. In fact, they can live for up to four days if they're lucky enough to escape the attentions of hungry birds and fish.

RAINY DAYS

No new water is ever made. The rain you see has fallen millions of times before. How does this happen? Rain is part of something called the water cycle.

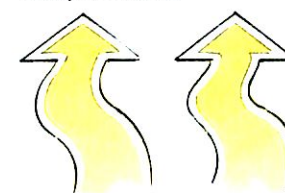


As the vapour rises it cools and turns back into water. This is called condensation. The water droplets join together to form clouds.



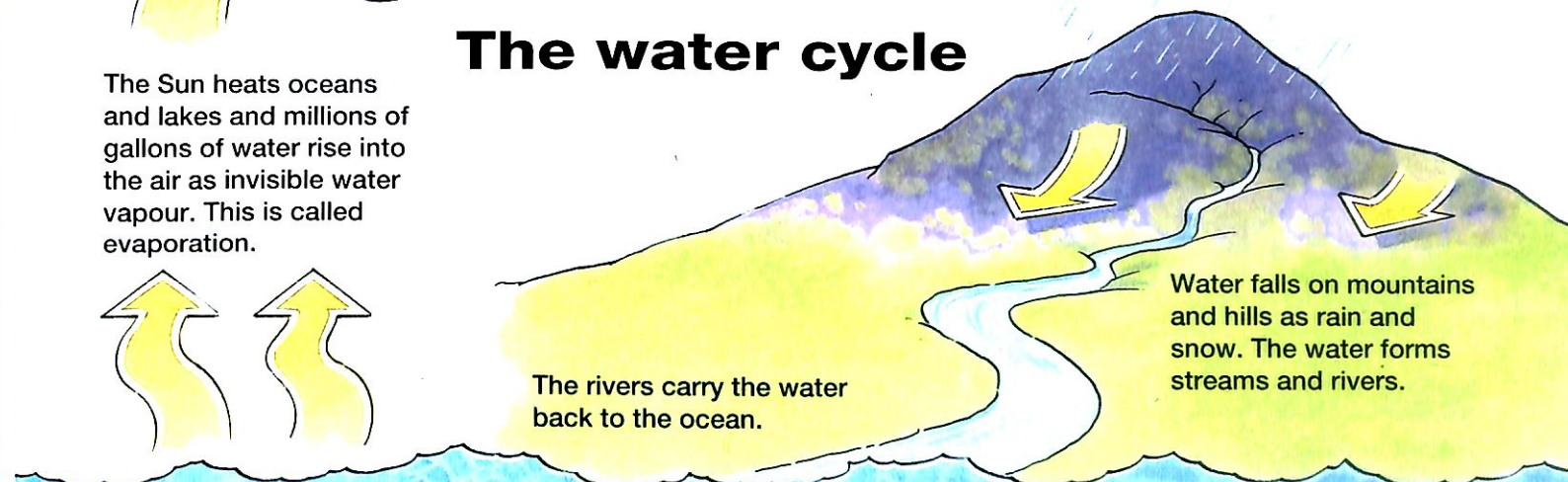
The water cycle

The Sun heats oceans and lakes and millions of gallons of water rise into the air as invisible water vapour. This is called evaporation.



The rivers carry the water back to the ocean.

Water falls on mountains and hills as rain and snow. The water forms streams and rivers.

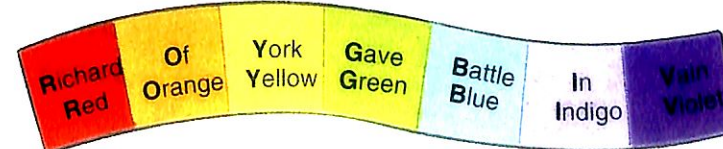


Rainbows

Sometimes it rains when the sun is out. Then you may see a rainbow. The sunlight shines through the drops of water and breaks up into seven colours. Rainbows always appear on the opposite side of the sky to the sun.



Do you know the colours of the rainbow? Here's a saying to help you remember them in the right order. The words start with the same letters as the colours.



RAINY DAY MESSAGE

Send a secret message to a friend. They can only read it when it rains!

You will need: 2 sheets of thin paper, pencil.

1 Wet a sheet of paper thoroughly. Lay it on a smooth, hard surface. Cover it with the sheet of dry paper and write a message in pencil. Press firmly. Hold the wet paper to the light to read your message.

2 When the wet paper dries the message vanishes. Send the message to a friend and tell them to save it for a rainy day. When they hold the paper out in the rain the message will reappear!



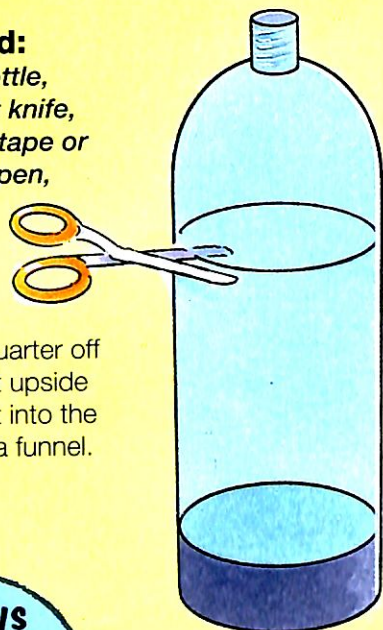
RAIN GAUGE

Here's a simple way to measure the amount of rainfall.

You will need:

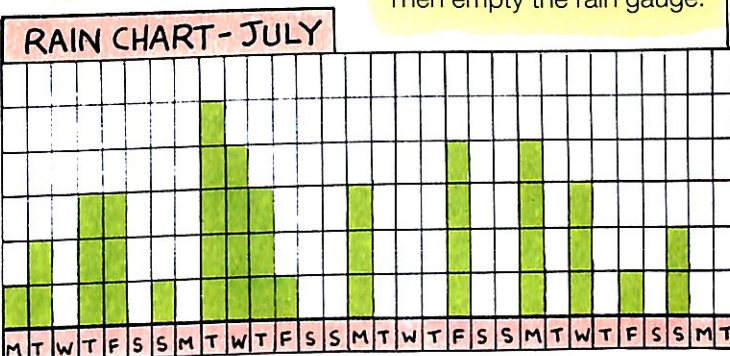
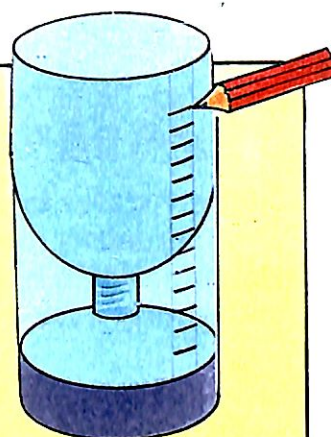
Large plastic bottle, scissors or craft knife, coloured sticky tape or water-resistant pen, paper, pencil.

1 Cut the top quarter off the bottle. Turn it upside down and slide it into the bottle, to act as a funnel.



2 Make marks up the side every 1 cm with a water-resistant pen. (You could stick strips of sticky tape up the side instead.) Stand the rain gauge outside. Dig a small hole or prop it up with stones so it doesn't fall over.

3 Make a rain chart. Each day it rains, note how far up the scale the water comes. Then empty the rain gauge.



Squirrel says

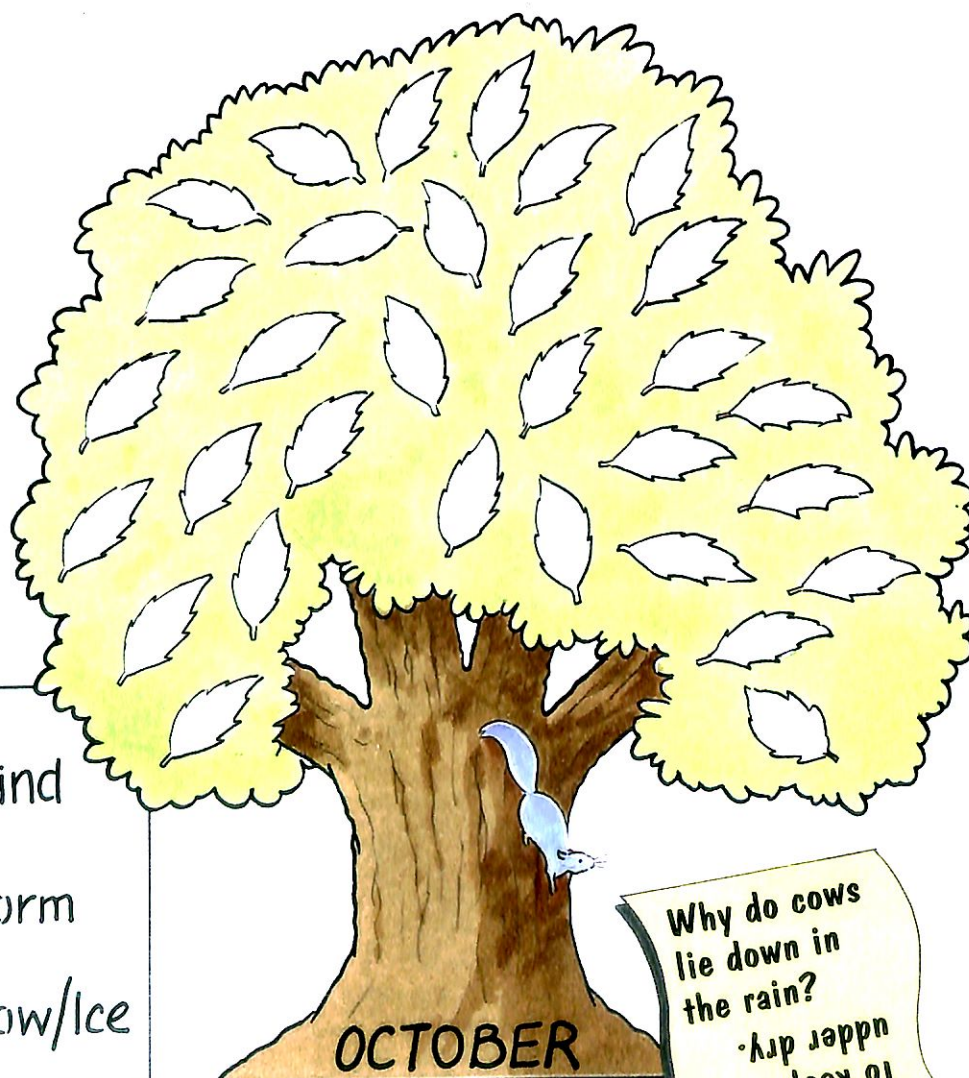
Ask an adult to cut the top off the bottle for you.



WEATHER TREE

Trace the tree on to paper. Write the month and year under the tree. Starting on the first day of the month, colour one leaf in each day. The key shows you which colours to use. For example, if the first day is cloudy and rainy, colour the first leaf red and blue.

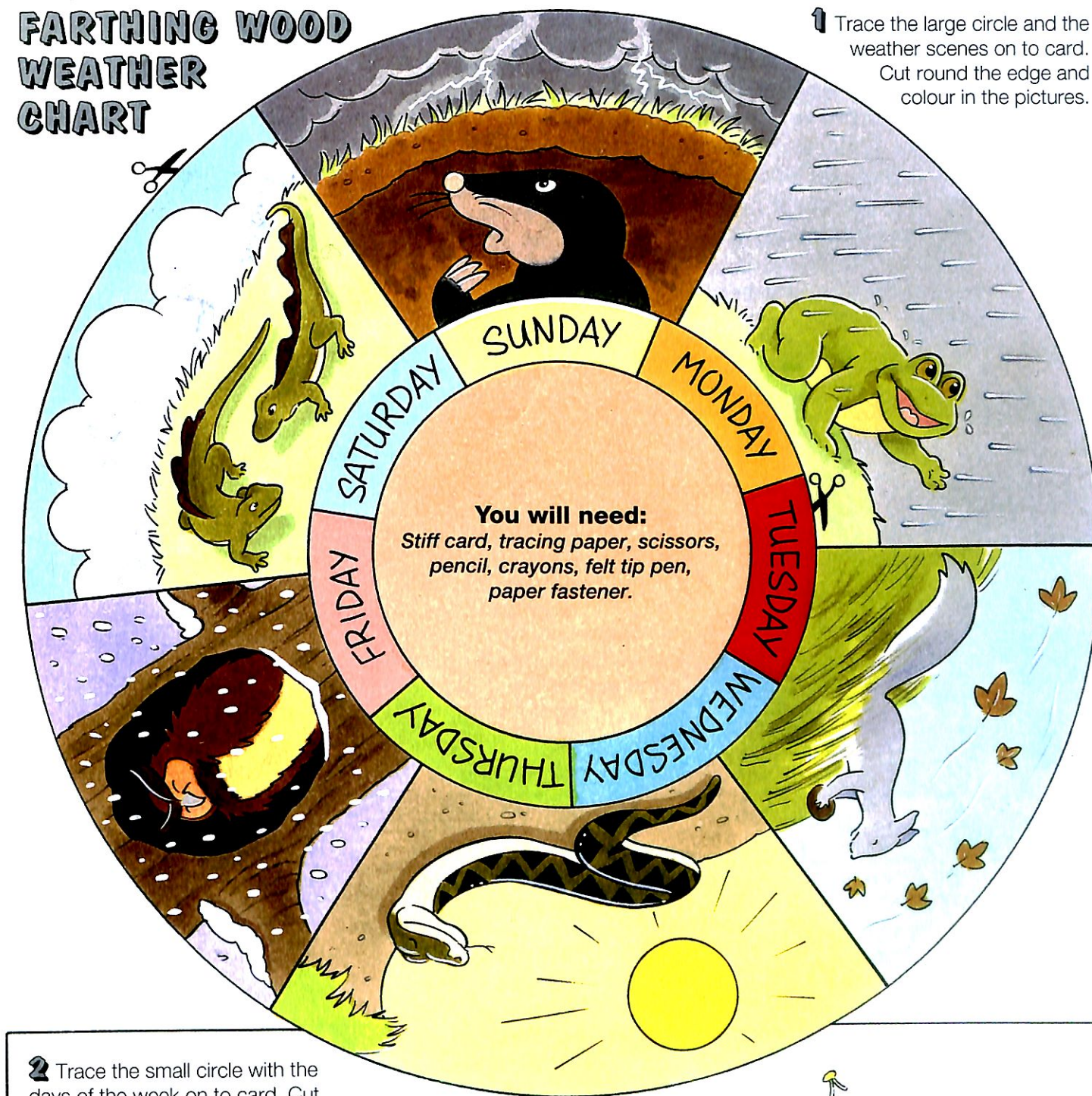
At the end of the month you have a record of the weather. How many sunny days were there? Was it a mostly wet or dry month?



Why do cows lie down in the rain? To keep each other dry.

FARTHING WOOD WEATHER CHART

1 Trace the large circle and the weather scenes on to card. Cut round the edge and colour in the pictures.



You will need:
Stiff card, tracing paper, scissors, pencil, crayons, felt tip pen, paper fastener.

2 Trace the small circle with the days of the week on to card. Cut round the edge and colour each day of the week a different colour. Write the days in felt tip pen.



3 Trace, cut out and colour the Weasel pointer. Make a small hole with scissors in the pointer and the card circles. Push a paper fastener through the holes. Each day turn the chart so that Weasel points to the right day and the weather that day.



4 Record the weather for a month on the weather tree you made earlier.

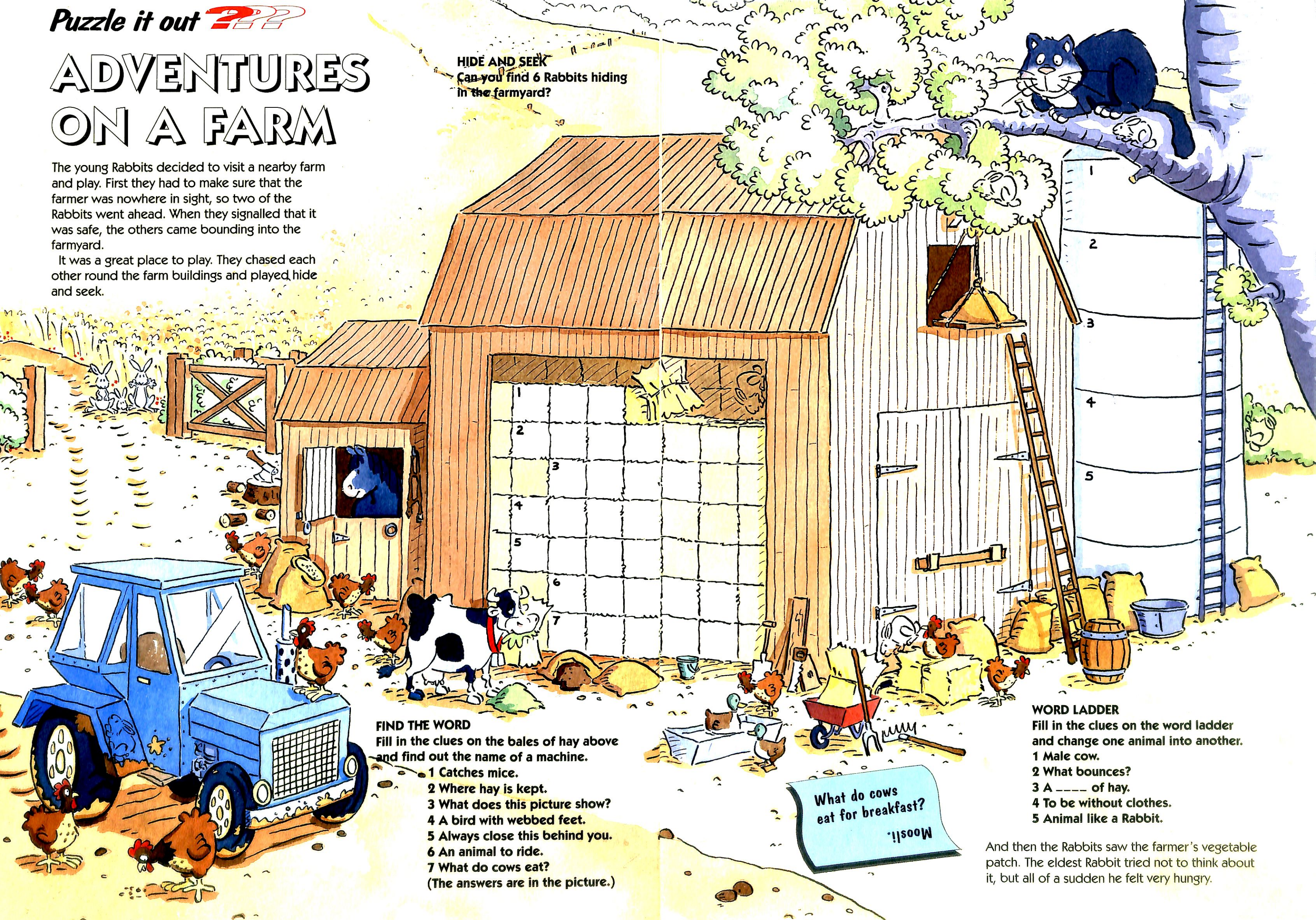


ADVENTURES ON A FARM

The young Rabbits decided to visit a nearby farm and play. First they had to make sure that the farmer was nowhere in sight, so two of the Rabbits went ahead. When they signalled that it was safe, the others came bounding into the farmyard.

It was a great place to play. They chased each other round the farm buildings and played hide and seek.

HIDE AND SEEK
Can you find 6 Rabbits hiding in the farmyard?



FIND THE WORD

Fill in the clues on the bales of hay above and find out the name of a machine.

- 1 Catches mice.
- 2 Where hay is kept.
- 3 What does this picture show?
- 4 A bird with webbed feet.
- 5 Always close this behind you.
- 6 An animal to ride.
- 7 What do cows eat?

(The answers are in the picture.)

What do cows
eat for breakfast?

Moos!!

WORD LADDER

Fill in the clues on the word ladder and change one animal into another.

- 1 Male cow.
- 2 What bounces?
- 3 A ---- of hay.
- 4 To be without clothes.
- 5 Animal like a Rabbit.

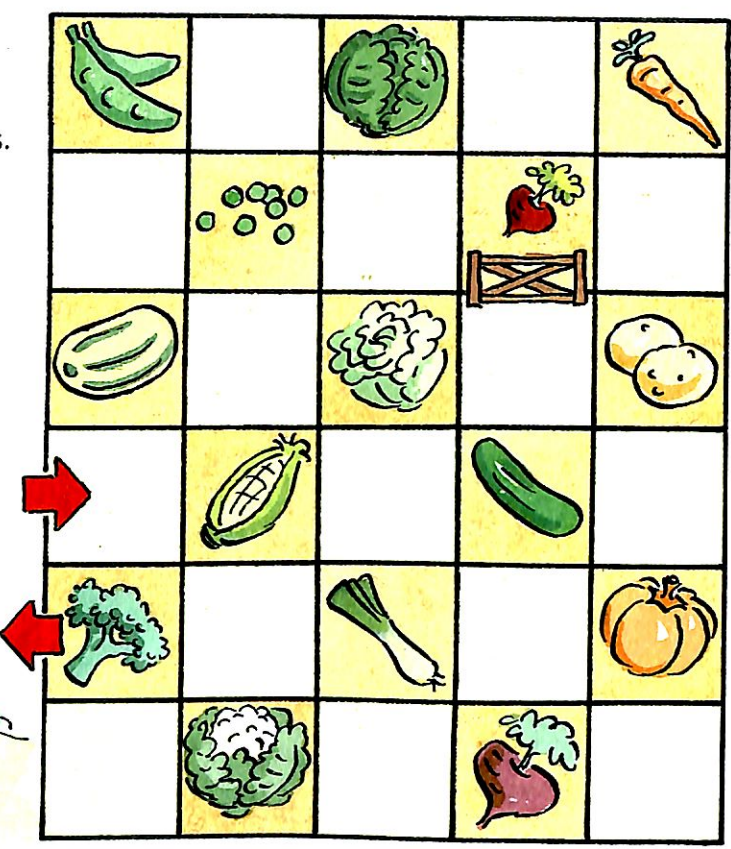
And then the Rabbits saw the farmer's vegetable patch. The eldest Rabbit tried not to think about it, but all of a sudden he felt very hungry.

Puzzle it out ???

"Look at those delicious carrots!" cried the youngest. "Let's go and have a feast."
All at once the Rabbits scampered into the vegetable plot and began to gorge themselves.

VEGETABLE PATCH

Can you find a way through the farmer's vegetable patch, visiting every square once only – and not going through the gate? You can only move in straight horizontal and vertical lines. Go in by the entrance and leave by the exit.

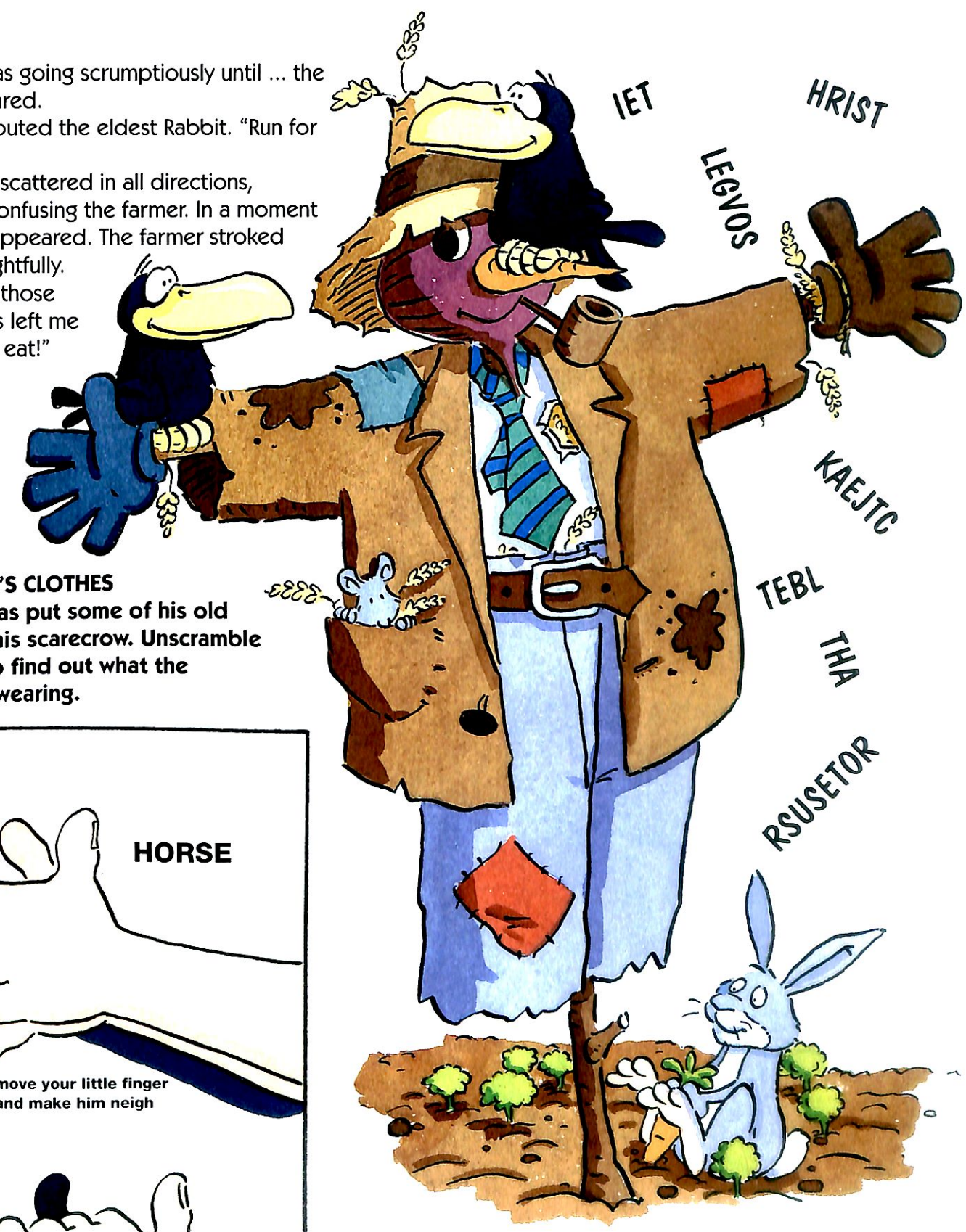


Everything was going scrumptiously until ... the farmer appeared.

"Scram!" shouted the eldest Rabbit. "Run for your lives."

The Rabbits scattered in all directions, completely confusing the farmer. In a moment they had disappeared. The farmer stroked his chin thoughtfully.

"I just hope those pesky Rabbits left me something to eat!" he said to himself.

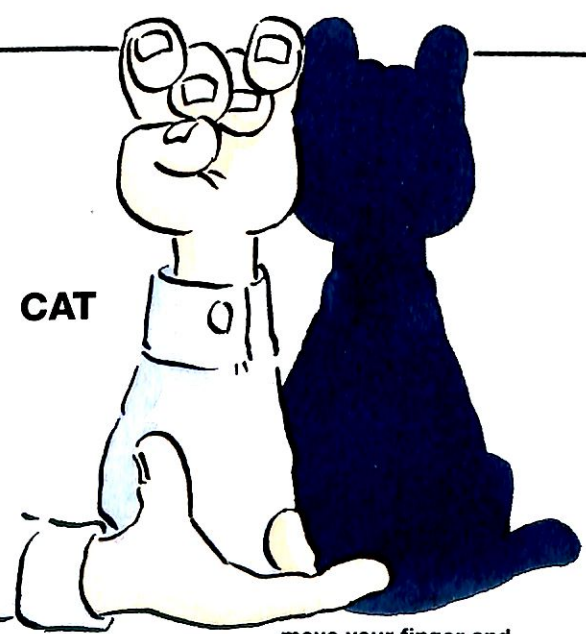


SCARECROW'S CLOTHES

The farmer has put some of his old clothes on this scarecrow. Unscramble the letters to find out what the scarecrow's wearing.

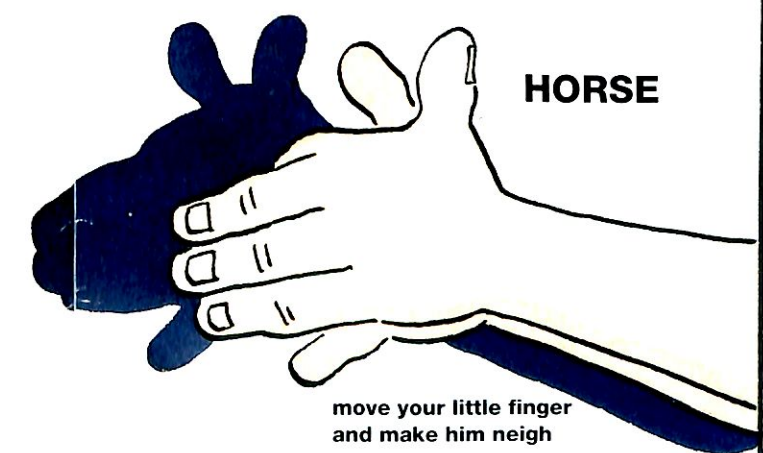
FARMYARD ANIMAL SHADOWS

Make your own farmyard full of animal shadows. Put your hands close to a white or pale-coloured wall in front of a light and copy the hands in the pictures.



CAT

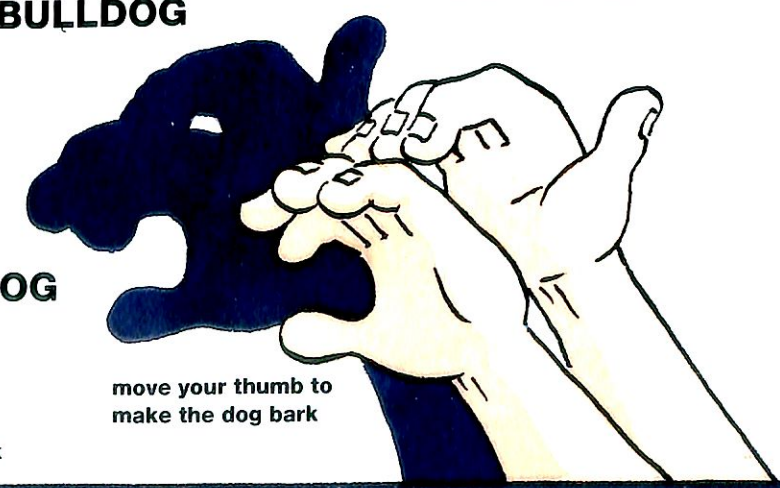
move your finger and make her tail twitch



HORSE

move your little finger and make him neigh

BULLDOG



move your thumb to make the dog bark



COW

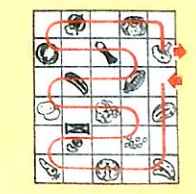
move your little finger to make her chew the cud

FARM DOG



move your little finger to make the dog bark

Word ladder
1 Cat 2 Barn 3 Farm
4 Duck 5 Gate 6 Horse
7 Grass. A tractor is the
important farm machine.
see diagram left
Vegetable patch
Scarecrow's clothes
hat, gloves, shirt, jacket,
tie, belt, trousers.



ANSWERS

Find the word
1 Cat 2 Barn 3 Farm
4 Duck 5 Gate 6 Horse
7 Grass. A tractor is the
important farm machine.

Colour it in 

HIDE AND SEEK!

